

# Juvenile Firesetter Referral

Office of the  
State Fire Marshal



*To provide guidelines for firefighters or officers when a juvenile firesetter is involved in a fire incident.*

## 1. Entry Into Program

If a juvenile firesetter is identified as being involved in a fire setting incident while on the fire scene, the fire officer in charge shall complete a Juvenile Firesetting Referral form. This form is to be forwarded to a Fire Prevention Public Education Specialist or trained interventionist. A Juvenile Firesetting Referral Follow-up will be returned to the fire officer informing them of the receipt of the referral form and letting them know what action is being taken with the juvenile and his/her family.

Typical indicators of juvenile set fires include:

- The location of the fire – usually bedrooms, closets and under the bed for younger children – backyard, garages/sheds and woods for older children.
- Multiple starts in an area.
- Families who have smokers or frequently use candles, and
- Fires that are in illogical places, such as ones with no natural source of heat/electricity.

If evidence at the fire scene indicates a youth started the fire, the fire officer in charge must report this involvement on the fire incident report by marking the JFS box and including the age and gender of the youth involved. If the youth's name is known, enter it in the fire incident comment report along with their address, phone, and parent's name.

## 2. Station Walk-Ins

If a family comes to a fire station with their children who have been involved with firesetting, have the family contact a public education specialist or trained interventionist, in Fire Prevention, during regular office hours; Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. A public education specialist or trained interventionist will conduct all juvenile firesetting interviews and education.

TOURS OF THE FIRE STATION ARE INAPPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME, as this tends to be viewed by children as a reward for the negative behavior of fire setting.

## 3. When to Call a Fire Investigator

The fire officer in charge shall call a fire investigator any time there are: 1) confession from a suspect, 2) evidence of arson, 3) witnesses with information that could identify possible suspects, juvenile involvement, or suspects still on the scene, or 4) significant damage.

For further information on when to call a fire investigator, please review the policy and procedure on Investigator Call-Out.

*Reference: Tempe Fire Department Policies and Procedures, Juvenile Firesetter Referral, 305.04, Rev 5-1-96; King County Firestopper program Incident Referral Form #A2.2-3*

## JUVENILE FIRESETTER INCIDENT REFERRAL FORM

### INCIDENT INFORMATION

Incident Number:

Incident Date:

Referring Officer/firefighter Name:

Incident Address:

Investigator's Name:

Investigator's Incident #

Where did the incident/fire occur?

Items Ignited:

Source of Ignition: Matches ☐ Lighter ☐ Fireworks ☐ Other ☐ (please explain):

### JUVENILE INFORMATION

Name:

Gender: Age:

Address:

City:

County:

School:

Grade:

Mother/Guardian:

Work Phone:

Home Phone:

Father/Guardian:

Work Phone:

Home Phone:

Others Involved in Incident:

☐ Yes ☐ No

Name:

Gender: Age:

Name:

Gender: Age:

Name:

Gender: Age:

### SMOKE ALARM

Were Smoke Alarms Present?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, explain:

When appropriate, test all smoke detectors and provide a new detector/battery.

☐ Appropriate ☐ Not Appropriate

### ACCESS TO IGNITION DEVICES

If matches and lighters are assessable to children, please ask parent/caregivers to remove them immediately. Explain the Juvenile Firesetter Intervention program and that the parent/guardian can expect a call from the Prevention Division to extend these services and explain the intervention program in greater detail.

Comments: